

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

June 25, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Deb Barber, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Steve Elkins, Cara Letofsky, Jennifer Munt, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber**

**Committee Members Absent: Marie McCarthy**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, June 25, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN. The committee began with the non-business items of Employee Recognition and the TAB Report while waiting for a quorum. Quorum was reached prior to acting on any business of the committee.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### **Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:**

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Director of Service Development Adam Harrington, who presented to:

Metro Transit Senior Transit Planner Michael Mechtenberg

Metro Transit Public Involvement Supervisor Sophia Ginis

Metro Transit District Supervisor Jason Bordenave

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the June 20, 2018 TAB meeting:

The TAB approved the release of the draft Transportation Improvement Program for public comment.

The TAB also discussed geographic balance in the Regional Solicitation. Metropolitan Transportation Services staff provided maps illustrating that the Regional Solicitation dollars seem to be spread across the region well. There were suggestions of what aspects should be considered in the future to measure whether geographic balance is achieved. The Metropolitan Airports Commission report included the news that the airport hotel is scheduled to open July 14, 2018, and with the arrival of JetBlue, another low-cost carrier has started providing service to the metro area.

Chair Rodriguez added that she is hopeful the TAB will incorporate additional metrics as it evaluates geographic balance in the Regional Solicitation. Chair Rodriguez also thanked TAB Liaison Peter Dugan for his well-researched and informative reports.

## **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

### Transportation Improvement Program

Starting today, June 25, 2018, the TIP is open for public comment through August 5, 2018.

### Transportation Policy Plan

Pending Council approval, the TPP draft will be released June 28, 2018 for public comment through August 13, 2018.

### Autonomous Vehicles Workshop

Today, June 25 and tomorrow, June 26, 2018, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and the Metropolitan Council are sponsoring an autonomous vehicles workshop. The goal of the workshop is to understand issues and feed into both the Governor's Advisory Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles as well as MnDOT's Strategic Plan.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### Rail Security Award

The American Public Transportation Association recently recognized efforts to safely transport thousands of fans to the Super Bowl, presenting Metro Transit with a Gold Award for Rail Security. The award was presented at APTA's rail conference earlier this month in Denver, Colorado. The award reflects the extraordinary efforts Metro Transit put forward on gameday and during more than a week of pre-game festivities. Metro Transit played a key role in event preparations, brought thousands of fans to and from the game on light rail, and overcame multiple gameday challenges, including snow, system and light rail vehicle malfunctions, and a civil disruption on the Green Line. This is the second time APTA has recognized Metro Transit this year. In May, Metro Transit received a Certificate of Merit at APTA's Bus Safety & Security Awards for its bus operator training program.

### Somali Independence Day

Metro Transit was a visible part of last weekend's Pride festivities and will be well-represented in the community again this weekend as Somali Independence Day is celebrated in Minneapolis. Festivities will span a three-block stretch of Lake Street from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 30, 2018. Several Metro Transit police officers and other staff will be at the event to promote career opportunities and provide transit information. Event-goers can ride to and from the Independence Day event for free between noon and 9 p.m. with a downloadable pass.

### METRO Blue Line turns 14

Tomorrow, June 26, 2018, marks the 14 years since service started for the Hiawatha Line, which of course is now known as the METRO Blue Line. This line has done nothing but gain in popularity for our riders, with people boarding it more than 150 million times since it began service. Just last year, it set a record with 10.7 million rides given, making it important to the success of Metro Transit operations for Super Bowl 52. Metro Transit will be marking the occasion on its social media channels tomorrow and looking forward to riders sharing some of their favorite Blue Line moments.

### Service Improvements

Improvements to Route 54 that took effect earlier this month are showing some promising early results. Metro Transit has seen an increase of around 475 weekday rides since limited stop service to St. Paul's East Side began on June 9, according to preliminary data. In Minneapolis, there has been a slight uptick in ridership on the Blue Line since construction began on I-35W. Bus ridership has remained stable in the corridor. Service continues to run smoothly in the corridor and has been improved with a

few minor changes, including signal timing adjustments, extra enforcement on the bus-only exit ramp and higher-visibility lane markings.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Letofsky, seconded by Munt and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2018-165:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: Washington County Hadley Avenue Interchange Cost Increase

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost of Washington County's Hadley Avenue interchange construction project.

2. **2018-166:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: Anoka County Hanson Boulevard Expansion

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to eliminate the widening of a bridge and change the cost of Anoka County's Hanson Boulevard Expansion.

3. **2018-167:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: MnDOT MN 77 Bridge Rehabilitation

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to update the project description, total project length, and cost of MnDOT's Minnesota Highway 77 bridge rehabilitation project to reflect the project as shown in the draft 2019-2022 TIP.

4. **2018-168:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-694 Interchange Reconstruction

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to amend the project description of MnDOT's I-694 interchange reconstruction project.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2018-56:** METRO Green Line and Blue Line LRT Extensions – Delegation of Construction Change Order Authority

Metro Transit Transit Systems Development Director MarySue Abel presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize modifications to Metropolitan Council Procedure 3-3C Delegation of Procurement and Contract Authority, by delegating the approval of construction contract change orders for the Green Line Extension and Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Projects as shown below in the "(Proposed)" column, for those change orders that do not exceed \$2.5 million each and do not exceed a cumulative expenditure amount of 10% of the construction contract value, without Council approval.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

## 2. **2018-162:** Final D Line Station Plan

Metro Transit Small Starts Development Senior Planner Scott Janowiak and Metro Transit Arterial BRT Manager Katie Roth presented this item.

Elkins commented that the 48<sup>th</sup> street station was added because of the strong community support and Letofsky voiced appreciation for the robust community engagement process. Commers observed that the D Line design work and planning is consistent with what took place for the A Line, and the questions and concerns raised are similar as well. Commers added that following the completion of the A Line Snelling Avenue experienced a stronger retail and business environment.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:  
That the Metropolitan Council approve the final D Line Station Plan.

Motion carried.

## 3. **2018-169 SW:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: Anoka County CSAH 14 Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Metropolitan Transportation Services Joe Barbeau presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:  
That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost of Anoka County's CSAH 14 bridge rehabilitation project.

Motion carried.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Project Selection Policy

MnDOT Project Selection Process Manager Philip Schaffner presented this item.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson shared that MnDOT has worked closely with Metropolitan Transportation Services and this aligns well with the planning process. MTS Director Thompson added that this scoring takes place after the money has been allocated to the metro area, and that the process adds transparency. Munt echoed appreciation for the collaboration between MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council. Munt asked what effect this plan will have on the metro area. Schaffner said this policy will not change the distribution of funding, but it will create a publicly vetted and available list of candidate projects, adding transparency that may help inform future discussions and debates about the additional allocation of resources. Munt asked for clarification on the Corridors of Commerce allocation. Schaffner answered that using the Metro District line, the Metro District received less than half of the resources in allocations. Chair Rodriguez voiced her gratitude for MnDOT's

openness for change and transparency. Chair Rodriguez shared the idea that funding should consider which communities benefit from any given project.

## 2. Transit 9-1-1 Project

Metro Transit Transit Control Center Manager Chad Loeffler presented this item.

Committee Members voiced appreciation for staff work on this item.

## 3. MTS Comprehensive Plan Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Technical Planning Support Manager Mark Filipi presented this item.

Elkins commented that the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network was meant as general direction, with details coming from the cities and counties, so it is encouraging to see the cities and counties moving forward with it. Munt observed that suburbs in the past have seemed to place affordable housing at the far part of a community, not near the core where jobs and services are located, and she shared her hope that conversations can be had with the suburbs to better position affordable housing. Munt added that she has observed a positive inclusion of bicycle trails in her district's suburbs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Jenna Ernst  
Recording Secretary